

I was not always supportive of medical marijuana. What changed my mind was hearing testimonials from suffering people who had turned to medical marijuana for relief. The choice to use medical cannabis for treatment was often a decision made when all other treatments had failed, when patients and families alike had lost hope.

I have seen families in the throes of grief at their loved ones' illnesses—including parents who watched their children with epilepsy suffer from daily, debilitating seizures. Every day brought a new heartbreak, until medical cannabis finally brought patients and families some much-needed relief. For many patients, this was the first relief from their symptoms that they had felt in many years.

But while some patients discover medical cannabis after research, many patients do not know, or even consider, that medical marijuana may help their conditions.

AMMPA, the American Medical Marijuana Physicians Association, has been instrumental—particularly in Florida—in raising patients' awareness of medical cannabis as a valid treatment option. They have helped many find relief when other treatments had not worked.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I want to recognize the Board of Directors of the American Medical Marijuana Physicians Association, and to thank them for their good work.

#### HONORING NORTH SUNFLOWER MEDICAL CENTER

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable organization, North Sunflower Medical Center.

North Sunflower is succeeding at a time when many rural hospitals in the U.S. are struggling to survive. It serves as a lifeline in a county where nearly 40 percent of residents are living in poverty and in a state with some of the highest levels of obesity, diabetes and deaths from cardiovascular disease in the nation.

And it has helped keep the tiny town of Ruleville afloat. It opened eye and dental clinics, a gift shop, a diagnostic center and a hospice in downtown stores, many of which had been vacant and in disrepair. The 25-bed hospital also sponsors fundraisers for the local high school sports teams and supports area colleges and events, including the Great Ruleville Roast & Run in late September.

North Sunflower isn't immune to the problems plaguing its peers. Its costs are going up at a time when its reimbursements aren't. Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers are cutting their payments and taking longer to send the checks. After years of growth, it may have to rethink some of the services it offers.

"It's a daily struggle and it's getting harder," said Billy Marlow, North Sunflower's executive director who engineered the turnaround.

Marlow had no background in health care when, in 2004, he was asked to join the board

and help save the hospital. Born at North Sunflower and raised in the area, he was a real estate developer and farmer. Soon after, he was named board chairman and then interim administrator.

It didn't take long for him to realize North Sunflower had to develop sources of revenue outside the core hospital. One of his first moves was to relocate the health clinic to a more prominent spot along the road and extend the hours. It's now open from 8 a.m. to midnight every day and treats 3,500 patients a month, up from 120 in 2004. It saves the hospital and patients money by absorbing those who show up at the emergency room but don't need that high a level of care.

The clinic is now a profit center, as is the hospice, pharmacy and durable medical equipment facility that sells items such as wheelchairs, back and knee braces, home oxygen equipment and blood sugar monitors. Marlow opened or expanded all of these.

Another top priority was renovating the hospital itself. The rooms were old, some of the ceilings were crumbling and the technology was outdated. This led both patients and doctors to avoid the place.

"When you have a hospital that's dirty or has a bad image, you can't recruit," said Marlow, who credits the employees and administrators for the rejuvenation.

To help fund all the changes, Marlow converted North Sunflower to a critical access hospital, a federal designation aimed at keeping rural providers alive. The shift increased the medical center's Medicare reimbursements.

A federal loan and a county bond helped pay for a new surgical unit and the Beacon Wellness Center, which contains a sleep clinic, community gym and rehab programs. And Marlow sold the hospital's home health aide agency, stashing away \$2 million in the bank. Marlow also secured some creative financing. He negotiated a deal with GE to provide new X-ray equipment and a CT scanner. And he hired an outside company to overhaul and upgrade the hospital's rooms and paid off the bill over time.

Along with all internal changes, the hospital developed extensive marketing campaigns. Its slogan, Take me to Ruleville, is everywhere—on billboards and bumper stickers, wrapped around its shuttle vans, in TV advertisements and YouTube videos.

Area residents have noticed. North Sunflower received higher than average ratings from patients on a variety of quality measures, according to Medicare's Hospital Compare profile. Some 83 percent of patients said they would "definitely recommend" the medical center, compared to an average of 70 percent for Mississippi hospitals and 72 percent nationwide.

Many area residents said they started coming to North Sunflower's clinic when it opened about a decade ago, not realizing it had existed for years before. Now, they travel miles to see doctors there, bypassing closer hospitals along the way.

Doctors are interested in working at North Sunflower. In recent years, it has added an array of specialists—an orthopedic surgeon, podiatrist, pediatric hematologist, among others—who visit anywhere from once a month to a few times a week. A licensed social worker

now provides adolescent and family counseling at the clinic. And its outpatient cardiac rehab unit just received industry accreditation.

Attracting and retaining quality staff to practice in the Delta is also a challenge. North Sunflower pays its doctors top dollar—often more than what they'd make in bigger cities—and covers a portion of their medical school loans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing North Sunflower Medical Center for its dedication to serving and giving back to the community.

#### RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY HOLABIRD

#### HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2018

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and Mr. McClintock, to honor the life and service of Timothy Holabird, a man well known for his dedication to the constituents of Northern California. Mr. Holabird served as Mr. MCCLINTOCK's, and later as my, District Representative.

Mr. Holabird has been recognized by many of the citizens and leaders in our communities for his contributions while serving as the local Representative to Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra Counties. In his capacity, Mr. Holabird worked for the people, finding resolution for the constituent wronged by our federal government. His tenacity to do good by the people, and his endless drive to ensure federal agencies were staying true to their objectives and mission, would quickly tire the average person out. But not so for Mr. Holabird. He was always available to hear the local citizen's concerns, walk them through possible solutions, and ready to fight on their behalf.

Mr. Holabird also had an in-depth knowledge of public lands policy, and a knack for understanding the appropriate role of an agency in relation to state and local needs. With his friendly demeanor, he could get all parties to the table, establish common goals, and ensure the actual problems were being resolved. One instance that comes to mind, was back in 2012, when four devastating wild fires burned through the District. Mr. Holabird personally bridged the communication gap with agencies attacking the fires and the communities immediately threatened, ensuring both homes and lives were saved. He pursued the concerns of local leaders, and addressed the shortfall of resources with federal agencies to the point of his own physical exhaustion.

It is with sadness for his loss of life I rise today. Tim was a friend who I will miss dearly. But I will always remember our drives through that amazing, soul-filling back country we are blessed to represent, where Tim knew most all the people, and could recite the history of each community we passed. It was more history than I could remember in one sitting but I loved it, as we all do in sharing his passion for our country and our NorCal home. God bless him and we know he will be missed by many.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
STOP THE BLEED DAY

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2018*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, as national Stop the Bleed day approaches on March 31, I encourage my colleagues and friends to get trained on how to control bleeding in a trauma situation to help end preventable deaths. The American College of Surgeons' Stop the Bleed program offers training to the public on how to control bleeding in an emergency using simple techniques that can be learned by almost everyone, such as direct pressure, bandaging, and even tourniquets.

In the United States, traumatic injuries cause the death of more than 180,000 people each year. While tragically some traumas result in near instantaneous death, many others occur in the first few hours or days and they are most often caused by uncontrolled bleeding. Traumatic injuries and bleeding can have many root causes including shootings, vehicle crashes, falls, workplace accidents, and natural disasters.

As an emergency physician, I have seen these heartbreaking cases time and again. In trauma care we think of the "Golden Hour," the time during which, if prompt medical attention is provided we have the best chance of saving a life. The Stop the Bleed campaign teaches members of the community how to respond to a bleeding emergency, and just as we see with CPR, the earlier the intervention begins, the greater the chance of eliminating preventable death. This is especially important in the moments before the arrival of medical personnel.

Please join with me and consider getting trained to Stop the Bleed.

HONORING JOE TROTTER DOCKINS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Joe Trotter Dockins who was born in Starkville, Mississippi on July 5, 1930 to the late Mr. and Mrs. Mathew and Mary Frances Dockins. He was married to the late Mrs. Odelle D. Dockins for 54 years and from that union they had two children; a son, Metric and a daughter, JoAndrea.

At the young age of 5, Mr. Dockins grew up working in his parents' grocery store that stayed in business thirty seven years. He received Christ early in life at Griffin United Methodist Church in Starkville, Mississippi. In his younger years, he participated in the Boy Scouts of America in his hometown. Although he never achieved the honor of being an Eagle Scout, his involvement and support in scouting has continued throughout his career.

While growing up in Starkville, he received his high school diploma from Oktibbeha County Training School, formerly Henderson High School and since integration it is now Henderson Junior High School. He graduated with honors with a B.S. Degree in Economics from

Alcorn College, now known as Alcorn State University in May 1953. Mr. Dockins further studied at Prairie View A&M University in 1953, in Prairie View, Texas and the University of Wisconsin in 1964, Madison, Wisconsin in the field of Human Development and Interpersonal Relationship.

Mr. Dockins began working for the Mississippi Agriculture Extension Services from 1954 to 1965 as an Associate County Agent in Louisville, Mississippi. Afterwards, he worked with the Farmers Home Administration as an Assistant County Supervisor from 1965 to 1981. His last assignment came as a result of being a County Supervisor from 1981 to 1987. After thirty-three years of dedicated service he decided to retire in 1987 and afterwards received his 25th and 30th years of service tenure awards as a Federal Employee. Joe began a new career in 1989 with the Mississippi Action for Progress as Director of Personnel and later was reassigned as Safety Coordinator. He stayed with Mississippi Action for Progress until 2006 and made the decision to retire a second time.

Mr. Dockins became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on December 16, 1950 at Alcorn State University. After graduation, he became active with Beta Alpha Chapter, in Jackson, Mississippi where he served in several positions which included Basileus from 1977 to 79. He was District Marshal for the 7th District Meeting held in Jackson, Mississippi in 1984; served as Mississippi State Representative from 1989 to 1993 and past member of the 7th District Council. In 1976, he received a plaque as "Man of the Year" for assisting in securing a Fraternity House and he received his 40th, 50th and 60th year membership pin from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. In 2016, he received a Certificate of Life Membership and was inducted into the Mississippi Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Hall of Fame.

Mr. Dockins is a member of the current and past organizations:

The Alcorn Alumni Club and served as President of the Jackson Chapter from 1986 to 1989;

Coordinator of the Monday Evening Club of Jackson, MS;

Past member of the Mississippi Farmers Home Administration Minority Employees Association;

Past member of Phi Delta Kappa, a professional fraternity in education;

He serves on the Board of Directors of Central Mississippi Health Services, Inc.;

Past member of the Board of Directors of the Wesley Foundation-Alcorn State University;

Past member of Mission Mississippi;

Served on the Boy Scouts of America, Andrew Jackson Council.

Mr. Dockins became a member of Central United Methodist Church in 1966. He served as President of Central United Methodist Men from 1977 to 1993, Finance Committee Chairperson from 1985 to 1987, past Vice-President of the Usher Board, served on the Pastor Parish Relations Committee and a former Lay Leader. He continues to be a member of the Finance Committee and Usher Board.

Mr. Dockins' life has been fulfilling due to all of his accomplishments. He continues to be an active and supportive member in his church and community. Mr. Dockins is an inspiration to all that cross his path.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to Join me in recognizing Mr. Joe Trotter Dockins for his dedication to serving.

HONORING CHIEF PETER  
INGVERTSEN

**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2018*

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter N. Ingvertsen upon his retirement after serving as Chief of Police for the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut for the past 18 years. Chief Ingvertsen is a widely known and respected leader in our community, and his dedication to public service is an inspiration for his fellow law enforcement officers and all of us who pursue a career in the public good.

Chief Ingvertsen demonstrated a passion for public service from a young age and began working as a police cadet as a teenager in Farmington. He eventually rose to become Patrol Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain, and, before joining the Simsbury Police Department in 2000, served as Acting Chief for Farmington and as the Town of Suffield's Chief of Police.

Through his long career in law enforcement, Chief Ingvertsen has become a leader not only in Simsbury, but across Connecticut and New England. He has earned certifications from the New England Command Institute and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Public Administration.

What's more, Chief Ingvertsen has also shared his time and talents to support a number of civic causes. He has been a leader in various Police Associations, including as Vice President of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, where he advocated for his fellow public servants and worked to strengthen their professional network. Chief Ingvertsen has also supported the Simsbury Lions Club and the Farmington Exchange Club, which do important work in his local towns.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Ingvertsen spent his career working to keep our community safe and providing experienced, wise leadership to our communities. It is proper that we honor him here today, and I extend my best wishes for an enjoyable retirement to Chief Ingvertsen and his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO LEAD  
IN THE AIR ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 29, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the No Lead in the Air Act. Although the House's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill includes my provision encouraging the use of unleaded aviation gasoline by January 1, 2023, that bill is still pending. Therefore, I introduce my bill to prohibit the use of lead in aircraft fuel by 2023. Lead exposure can have harmful effects on children as well as adults. Since 1980, the amount of